IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims which are pending in the present application.

1. (Currently amended) In a messaging system, a method for restoring media items to an original quality, the method comprising:

upon receipt of a message containing a media item having original <u>resolution</u> quality <u>by a switching center</u>, storing the media item ~~at~~ <u>having</u> ~~the~~ original <u>resolution</u> quality in a repository <u>by a server</u>;

generating an identifier for identifying the media item <u>having original resolution quality</u> stored in the repository <u>by the server</u>;

<u>embedding the identifier in the media item having original resolution quality stored in the repository by the server;</u>

replacing the media item ~~having original quality~~ in the <u>received</u> message with a ~~lower quality substitute~~ copy ~~that includes said identifier~~ <u>of the identifier-embedded media item having original resolution quality stored in the repository by the switching center</u>; and

upon future encounter of a message containing ~~the~~ <u>an identifier-embedded media item no longer having original resolution quality by the switching center</u> ~~lower quality substitute copy of the media item having said identifier~~, ~~restoring~~ <u>substituting</u> the ~~lower quality substitute copy of the media item~~ <u>identifier-embedded media item no longer having original resolution quality</u> in the <u>encountered</u> message ~~to the original quality~~ <u>with a copy of the identifier-embedded media item having original resolution quality stored in the repository</u> using said identifier.

2.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said media item having original <u>resolution</u> quality comprises a component in user-composed messages.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said messaging system comprises Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS).

4.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said replacing includes:

using an available data communications channel that exists for encoding said media item having original <u>resolution</u> quality, in order to encode said identifier.

5.   (Canceled)

6.   (Canceled)

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said messaging system comprises a message switch-based system.

8.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said messaging system is able to allow transmission of a given media item in its original <u>resolution</u> quality or decimate the given media item, as required for a given destination.

9.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the message containing a media item having original ~~resolution~~ quality is received from a mobile terminal.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the mobile terminal communicates via a multimedia messaging protocol.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said identifier comprises an object reference identifier.

12.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein said object reference identifier is capable of being embedded in the ~~lower quality substitute copy of the media item~~ media item having original resolution quality.

13.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the object reference identifier is embedded in a header of the ~~lower quality substitute copy of the media item~~ media item having original resolution quality.

14.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said ~~lower quality substitute copy of the~~ media item having original resolution quality comprises a JPEG image, and wherein the object reference identifier is embedded in a header for the JPEG image.

15.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifier is embedded in the ~~substitute copy~~ media item having original resolution quality as a binary text string.

16.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the binary text string contains sufficient information to allow retrieval of a copy of the media item having original resolution quality stored in the repository.

17.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifier employed for the ~~lower quality substitute copy of the media item~~ media item having original resolution quality depends on the ~~lower quality substitute copy of the media item's~~ media item having original resolution quality type.

18.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~restoring~~ substituting includes: scanning incoming media items for any preexisting identifiers.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

if an incoming media item does not have a preexisting identifier, assigning a new identifier for that incoming media item.

20.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising: removing from the repository any media item that is stale.

21.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein said removing includes applying an aging mechanism to determine media items that are stale.

22.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifier is embedded in a digital watermark employed for the ~~lower quality substitute copy of the~~ media item having original resolution quality.

23.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~lower quality substitute copy of the~~ media item having original resolution quality comprises an image, and wherein the identifier is embedded in a digital watermark for the image.

24.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifier is embedded in a digital watermark for the ~~substitute copy~~ media item having original resolution quality, said identifier be embedded as a binary text string.

25.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein steps of the method are performed at a server computer that connects to mobile terminals.

26.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least some steps of the method are performed at mobile terminals, for providing distributed processing.

27.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said message is transmitted via the Internet from a client device to a server.

28.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~lower quality substitute copy~~ <u>identifier-embedded media item</u> is a reduced size image smaller than the media item having original <u>resolution</u> quality.

29.   (Original) A computer-readable medium having processor-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

30.   (Original) A downloadable set of processor-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

31.   (Currently amended) A system for restoring media items to original quality, the system comprising:

a messaging system capable of transmitting multimedia messages;

a repository for storing media items having original <u>resolution</u> quality upon receipt of a message containing a media item having original <u>resolution</u> quality;

a module for generating an identifier for identifying the media item having original <u>resolution</u> quality stored in the repository <u>and for embedding the identifier in the media item having original resolution quality stored in the repository</u>;

a module for replacing the media item having original <u>resolution</u> quality in the message with a ~~lower quality substitute~~ copy <u>of the identifier-embedded media item having original resolution quality stored in the repository</u> ~~that includes said identifier~~;
and

a module for ~~restoring~~ <u>substituting</u> ~~the lower quality substitute copy of the media item~~ <u>an identifier-embedded media item no longer having original resolution quality</u> in

the ~~a~~ message ~~to~~ with ~~the original quality~~ a copy of the identifier-embedded media item having original resolution quality stored in the repository using said identifier.

32.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 31, wherein said media item having original resolution quality comprises a component in user-composed messages.

33.   (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein said messaging system comprises Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS).

34.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 31, wherein said module for replacing includes: module for using an available data communications channel that exists for encoding said media item having original resolution quality, in order to encode said identifier.

35.   (Canceled)

36.   (Canceled)

37.   (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein said messaging system comprises a message switch-based system.

38.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 31, wherein said messaging system is able to allow transmission of a given media item in its original resolution quality or decimate the given media item, as required for a given destination.

39.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 31, wherein the message containing a media item having original <u>resolution</u> quality is received from a mobile terminal.

40.   (Original) The system of claim 39, wherein the mobile terminal communicates via a multimedia messaging protocol.

41.   (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein said identifier comprises an object reference identifier.

42.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 41, wherein said object reference identifier is capable of being embedded in the ~~lower quality substitute copy of the~~ media item <u>having original resolution quality stored in the repository</u>.

43.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 42, wherein the object reference identifier is embedded in a header of the ~~lower quality substitute copy of the~~ media item <u>having original resolution quality stored in the repository</u>.

44.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 43, wherein said ~~lower quality substitute copy of the~~ media item <u>having original resolution quality stored in the repository</u> comprises a JPEG image, and wherein the object reference identifier is embedded in a header for the JPEG image.

45.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 31, wherein the identifier is embedded in the ~~substitute copy~~ media item having original resolution quality stored in the repository as a binary text string.

46.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 45, wherein the binary text string contains sufficient information to allow retrieval of a copy of the media item having original resolution quality stored in the repository.

47.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 31, wherein the identifier employed for the ~~lower quality substitute copy of the~~ media item having original resolution quality stored in the repository depends on the ~~lower quality substitute copy of the~~ media item's type.

48.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 31, wherein said module for ~~restoring~~ substituting includes: a module for scanning incoming media items for any preexisting identifiers.

49.   (Original) The system of claim 48, further comprising:

module for assigning a new identifier for that incoming media item, if an incoming media item does not have a preexisting identifier.

50.   (Original) The system of claim 31, further comprising: module for removing from the repository any media item that is stale.

51.   (Original) The system of claim 50, wherein said module for removing includes applying an aging mechanism to determine media items that are stale.

52.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 31, wherein the identifier is embedded in a digital watermark employed for the ~~lower quality substitute copy of the~~ media item having original resolution quality stored in the repository.

53.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 31, wherein said ~~lower quality substitute copy of the~~ media item having original resolution quality stored in the repository comprises an image, and wherein the identifier is embedded in a digital watermark for the image.

54.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 31, wherein the identifier is embedded in a digital watermark for the ~~substitute copy~~ media item having original resolution quality stored in the repository, said identifier be embedded as a binary text string.

55.   (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein certain modules reside at a server computer that connects to mobile terminals.

56.   (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein at least some modules reside at mobile terminals, for providing distributed processing.

57.   (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein said message is transmitted via the Internet from a client device to a server.

58.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 31, wherein the ~~lower quality substitute copy~~ <u>identifier-embedded media item no longer having original resolution quality</u> is a reduced size image smaller than the media item having original quality.